



She finally said:

I am the

Immaculate Conception

An Invitation for All Who Come to Encounter Her Message



The Story of St. Bernadette

A Girl the World Overlooked

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844 to a family crushed by poverty. Her parents lost their mill, then their home, and finally moved into the Cachot — a former prison cell — because it was the only place they could afford. Through it all, they never let go of their faith. It was quiet, humble, and steady: not because life was easy, but because God felt near.

Poverty meant Bernadette had almost no schooling. At thirteen, she was sent away to work as a shepherdess, “to make one less mouth to feed.” She struggled to learn even her catechism — she barely spoke French, her health was poor, and her teachers had little patience. She longed for her First Communion and felt she was being left behind.

Then, on February 11, 1858, while gathering firewood near the Grotto of Massabielle, everything changed. Bernadette saw a Lady dressed in white, radiant and gentle. She felt no fear — only peace.

The Lady was the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Why Mary Chose Her

Mary didn’t choose Bernadette for what she had. She chose her for who she was: honest, simple, and incapable of pretending. Bernadette repeated Mary’s words exactly, without adding to them or softening them, and she held her ground under enormous pressure from officials who demanded she take it all back. She never did.

Mary came to nurture Bernadette’s own longing for Jesus — but she also came for everyone else. Her message was never meant for one girl alone. When she asked Bernadette to dig into the ground and drink from what became a flowing spring, she opened a source of grace that continues to draw millions.

Bernadette eventually received the First Communion she had waited so long for. The girl who once struggled to learn her catechism became the saint through whom Mary opened a door that is still open today.

Her story is an invitation: **to trust, to pray, to repent, and to believe that God meets us in every part of our lives** — in our joys as much as in our struggles.

Read Bernadette’s full story, in her own family’s words, at [website link] — or scan the code below.

The Message of Lourdes

“What I have to say to you does not need to be written down.”

Third apparition, February 18

With these words, Mary first spoke to Bernadette. She was not handing over a doctrine to be recorded — she was opening a relationship of the heart.

“Would you do me the grace of coming here for fifteen days?”

For the first time, Bernadette was addressed with respect, as a person in her own right. The Sanctuary teaches: we are all worthy in the eyes of God, because each of us is loved by Him.

“I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next.”

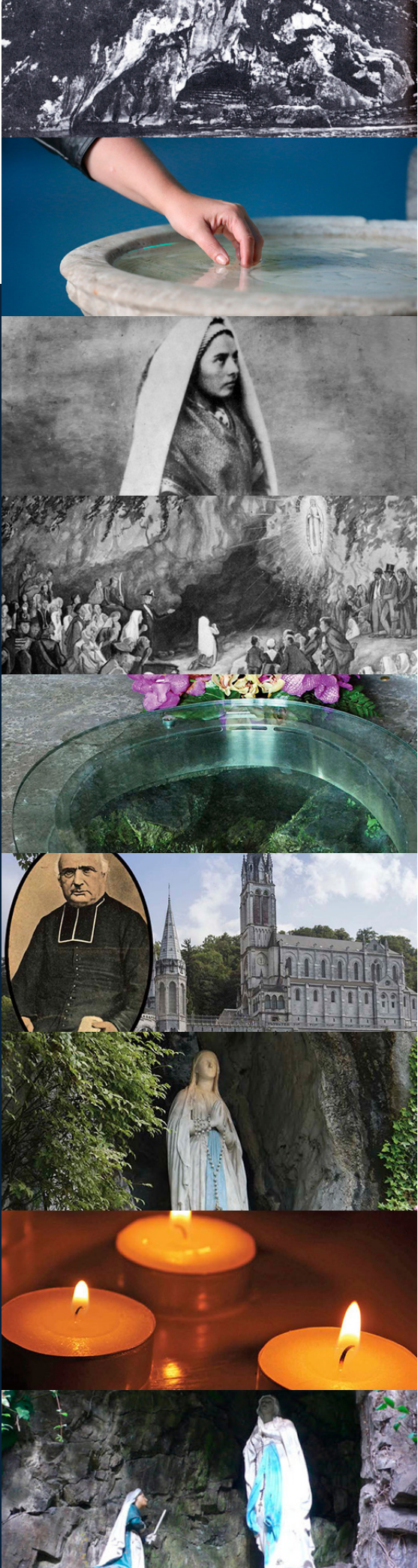
This is read alongside Christ’s own invitation in the Gospel to seek the Kingdom of Heaven — a kind of “other world” found within this one, wherever real Love is present. Mary gave Bernadette the certainty of a promised land, reached only beyond death.

And yet — despite her poverty, her illness, and her lack of education, Bernadette was, by every account, deeply and consistently happy. The Sanctuary names this happiness itself as the Kingdom of God: the world of true Love, already present.

A Change No One Understood

During the first seven apparitions, Bernadette’s face was radiant with joy. Then, between the eighth and twelfth, everything changed. Her expression grew pained, and she began gestures the crowd could not explain: walking on her knees to the back of the grotto, kissing the bare ground, eating bitter herbs, scraping the earth to drink muddy water, smearing her own face with mud. Onlookers said she had lost her mind. This continued across four apparitions.

The Sanctuary explains: these were not signs of confusion, but biblical gestures — Bernadette’s body acting out the Incarnation, the Passion, and the Death of Christ. Walking on her knees echoed God lowering Himself to become man. The bitter herbs recalled ancient Jewish tradition. Smearing her face recalled the prophet Isaiah’s suffering servant.



“Go to the spring, drink there, and wash there.”

Ninth apparition

This request revealed, the Sanctuary teaches, the very mystery of Christ’s pierced heart, from which blood and water once flowed. The mud and bitter herbs represent the human heart, wounded by sin. Beneath it, hidden, is the very life of God — signified by the spring.

“Penance, penance, penance. Pray for sinners.”

Asked what the Lady had said to her, this is what Bernadette repeated. The Sanctuary is direct about what “penance” means here: not punishment, but conversion — turning the heart toward God, and toward one another.

“Go tell the priests to build a chapel here, and to come here in procession.”

Thirteenth apparition

The Sanctuary reads “come in procession” as walking, in this life, always alongside our brothers and sisters. And “build a chapel” as building the Church wherever we ourselves stand.

“I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Sixteenth apparition, March 25 — the Feast of the Annunciation

Mary finally revealed her name on the very day the Church remembers Christ’s own conception in her womb. In doing so, she revealed her whole identity: the one wholly indwelt by God.

The Sanctuary’s own conclusion: all of us — the Church, and every Christian — are called to let ourselves be indwelt by God in the same way. To become, in our own lives, immaculate: forgiven, graced, and able to witness to God as she did.

ONE DROP
of this water,
WITH FAITH,
is **ENOUGH** to heal.

MIR·A·CLE

A miracle is an extraordinary event that surpasses the powers of nature and can only be attributed to the direct intervention of God. They are signs of God's presence and action in the world, manifesting His power, mercy and love



The Official Criteria of a Miraculous Cure

The Catholic Church's process involves two steps.

1

A cure must meet these criteria:

- No scientific explanation
- Unexpected and complete recovery
- Lasting effect

2

A panel of five doctors from the Vatican's "Consulta Medica" reviews the case.

If at least three agree it was beyond science, the case moves to cardinals and priests. With evidence of healing prayer, the Church may declare the cure a miracle.



www.stbernadetteusa.org/Miracles

Everyday Miracles

While dramatic healings, like restoring sight to the blind or helping the lame walk are powerful signs of God's grace, many miracles unfold in quieter, more personal ways.

These subtle moments of healing may go unnoticed by the world, but they are no less profound. They are glimpses of God's love breaking into our ordinary days.

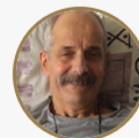
Take time to contemplate the gentle miracles in your own life, those signs of mercy, hope, and transformation.

*Give thanks to the God
who is always near.*

Inspiring Stories

A miracle is an extraordinary event that surpasses the powers of nature and can only be attributed to the direct intervention of God.

They are signs of God's presence and action in the world, manifesting His power, mercy and love.



"I want to go to Lourdes"
said Francis on his sick bed

If all roads lead to Rome, then there are also those that point to Lourdes. There were three of them from Saint-Symphorien-d'Ozon (Rhône, France), on this Monday, 23rd October 2017.

François

Reference: Lourdes Magazine N°34 - September 2018, p. 4



[Read the Full Story →](#)



A voice awakens Sali:
"Get up! Go to Lourdes!"

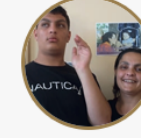
Born in the Ivory Coast, to a Muslim family, Sali never prayed. She could not read or write. Absolutely nothing prepared her for an encounter with Our Lady of Lourdes. She arrived in the Paris region of France in 1977.

Sali

Reference: Lourdes Magazine N°35 - October 2018, p. 5



[Read the Full Story →](#)



What God wants

Elisabeth wished to testify to the graces she received through the intercession of Saint Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes.

"After ten years of marriage, I still had no children. I called on St. Bernadette. In my prayer, I did not ask for anything. I just said, if I have a child, I will be happy."

Elisabeth

Reference: Lourdes Magazine N°37 - April 2019, p. 5



[Read the Full Story →](#)

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Finalmente dijo:

Soy la
**Immaculada
Concepción**

Una invitación para todos aquellos que vengan a descubrir su mensaje